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particular locality, would be practically unmanageable for the country as a whole by any one group of experts, however competent. Thirdly, that it is, nevertheless, necessary that the problem as a whole should be *grasped* though *not dealt with* by one body. No existing agency has shown itself capable of doing this. A special group of experts is needed, representative of all the different interests involved, and with special knowledge of the different aspects of the problem. This body, with the aid of a competent staff, should be acquainted with the exact extent and nature of the distress at any time in the United Kingdom, and with the attempts to deal with the problem both at home and abroad. Only thus would it be fully competent to form a correct judgment of the problem as a whole. Thus equipped, however, it would be able to discriminate between those sections of the problem that can best be solved by the action of the Poor Law, charitable and other agencies, and that section of the problem with which no existing agency is calculated to deal satisfactorily, and which it can, therefore, itself wisely undertake to manage. This would include the establishment of temporary relief works, labor colonies and a network of labor bureaus. While such a body would itself deal only with the existing 'stock' of unemployed, it would be capable of conducting a wise agitation for the whole series of lesser remedies for preventing the recurrence of the problem."

It will be interesting to compare these recommendations for English action with the report of the Special Commission in Massachusetts.

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*The Ills of the South ; or related causes hostile to the general prosperity of the Southern people.* By CHARLES H. OTKEN, LL. D. Pp. xii, 277. Price, \$1.50. New York and London : G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1894.

The "related causes" mentioned in the sub-title of this book are, chiefly, the credit system, under which most Southern farmers have to work, and its attendant and consequent evil, the increased acreage in the production of cotton. The third great cause is the unproductive present and unpromising future of the negro.

The volume begins with a brief survey of affairs in the South in 1865. Most men had suffered from the war, but a certain class had fared well. These were the men who stayed at home during the struggle. They speculated in cotton and similar products. They were poor in 1861; they were rich in 1866. This money, invested in merchandise, became to a large extent the curse of the people among whom it was employed.

One of the earliest phases of the new economic life of the South was the lien law. This law was believed at the time to confer a favor on the small farmer and the freedman, for in this way only could they secure the necessary supplies with which to produce their crops. But while the law has proved a gold mine to the merchant it has worked disastrously for the farmer, because it fosters the credit system. This system has grown into a great evil: because of its indefiniteness; because the prices charged under it are ruinously high; as a rule it cuts the buyer off from the option of purchasing elsewhere; it encourages extravagance in many whose purchases, some foolish and more unnecessary, are only limited by the willingness of the merchant to give credit.

Mr. Otken estimates that the average sum thus lost by purchasing on time is 25 per cent, which means more than \$100,000 per year for 2000 average farmers, or more than \$2,000,000 for twenty years. He also presents tables which show in a forcible way that while the output of cotton has greatly increased the output of food products has not kept pace with population. Between 1860 and 1889 the grain crop increased 37 per cent, but the increase of population was 87 per cent. There was actually less corn produced in the States of Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North and South Carolina in 1889 than in 1860. The ten Southern States produced less tobacco, peas, beans, Irish potatoes, and sweet potatoes in 1880 than in 1860. In seven States, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North and South Carolina and Tennessee there has been a decrease of 23 per cent in the number of sheep since 1860, and in all of these, except Louisiana, there has been a similar decrease in the number of hogs. There are less hogs in the States just mentioned, and also in Arkansas, Florida, and Texas, than there were in 1860, and if we except Texas there are fewer sheep also. The estimate is made, and it is probably not far from the truth, that \$100,000,000 is lost to the South annually by this neglect of food products. These products are supplied from Western markets. One Mississippi firm reports that they have sold on an average 300,000 pounds of Western meat annually for fifteen years and the reviewer has heard that more meat was shipped into a certain county in northeastern North Carolina, which has become a cotton country since the war, than pounds of cotton were sent out of it. This is another leak in Southern prosperity and to stop this leak 3,000,000 bales of cotton at present prices are required.

Such then is the situation. There are remedies for this state of affairs. Repeal the lien laws, for the belief in their evil results is almost unanimous; economize and deny as was done in war times; raise less cotton and more food products, more hog and hominy. It

seems that the tide is already beginning to turn in this direction in some of the States. The Farmers' Alliance has done a good work in the discussion and agitation of these matters.

The first eight chapters are well presented and contain sound reasoning. The remaining chapters are of less value. The one on "The Perversion of Business" is a homily on business methods and out of place. The last three are on the negro. This is the third ill and perhaps greater than the others. These chapters are pessimistic in the extreme. Freedom has not tended to elevate the negro socially, morally or industrially. Being now his own master he refuses to work except when driven to it by hunger. He lives from hand to mouth on odd jobs, thievery or prostitution. The author estimates that 81 per cent are non-producers and statistics show that the large majority of inmates of prisons are negroes. This is all true, but we must here read between the lines, for the negro is almost the only thief who gets his just deserts and this is due largely to the fact that he is comparatively helpless. The author offers no solution to this ethnic problem save colonization. He thinks that this can be done in thirty years at a cost of \$750,000,000. This in his opinion is the solution of the negro problem.

But this colonization cannot and will not be undertaken. The transportation of 300,000 per annum would mean such an increase in births that it would prolong the thirty years to fifty or sixty. Nothing can be more useless than talk about the deportation of the negroes as a race. This is not the solution. Nor does it seem reasonable to fear such a serious race war as the author suggests. There is no danger that the Anglo-Saxon will not assert himself in the future just as in the past. The Anglo-Saxon never submits to domination. Whether the struggle be with the Wendic population of the Fatherland, with the Sepoy in India, the black man in the jungles of Africa, or the Indian on the plains of North America, the results are always the same. The Anglo-Saxon is never ruled but rules; so it will be in the South, for these States contain a larger per cent of English blood than any other section of the Republic.

STEPHEN B. WEEKS.

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*Kleingewerbe und Hausindustrie in Oesterreich.* Von Dr. EUGEN SCHWIEDLAND. 2 Vols. Leipzig: Duncker & Humblot, 1894.

Interest in the history of nations is now turning more and more away from the activities of the state to the labor of the people. To this change we are indebted for a number of works dealing with economic history and, more remotely, for works which investigate single special fields of political economy. To these last belongs the present book. It is a very careful piece of work, and is worthy the